

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/013382

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.09.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
27.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H04L29/06, H04L12/58, H04N7/16

Applicant
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

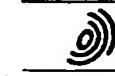
If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three-months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/013382

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/013382

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:

copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-9 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-9 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-9 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/013382

Re Item V.

The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : US 6 564 383 B1 (VETTER WILLIAM WALTER ET AL) 13 May 2003 (2003-05-13)

Prior Art:

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a multimedia computer which receives multimedia data with embedded closed-caption data. A user can specified search criteria and a time schedule, which the multimedia computer can use to search in the closed caption data received during the scheduled times. If a match is found, the multimedia data (Mpeg) along with closed caption data and program information is stored. If the user has also requested it, the results of a match are also automatically forwarded to a number of recipients in the form of an e-mail. However, D1 differs from the subject matter of independent claims 1 (apparatus), 6 (method), 7 (computer-readable program), 8 (computer-readable medium) and 9 (apparatus), in that it does not disclose the feature defined in these claims of:

an input/output acceptance section operable to, in response to a request from a user, generate scene specification information for identifying a portion of the multimedia data that is being outputted from the output section, the scene specification information including identification information and time; a retrieval section operable to retrieve, from the storage section, scene related information corresponding to the scene specification information; a format conversion section operable to convert the retrieved scene-related information into a format which enables the scene related information to be used in the electronic mail; and a mail creation section operable to create a part of data of the electronic mail by utilizing the converted scene related information

Problem-Solution:

The solution as defined by the differing feature of independent claims 1 (apparatus), 6 (method), 7 (computer-readable program), 8 (computer-readable medium) and 9 (apparatus) solves the problem of how to enable a user, who is currently viewing streamed multimedia, to very simply and in real time forward information regarding the viewed multimedia to another user. The advantage offered by this solution is that as the viewer of streamed multimedia can request the forwarding of information related to the viewed multimedia simply by the press of a button and without needing to predefine forwarding criteria via the use of

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International application No.

PCT/JP2004/013382

complex menus, the process can be implemented on mobile terminals without increasing their complexity and weight.

Therefore the subject matter of independent claims 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 is considered to meet the requirements of Article 33 of the PCT for novelty (Art. 33(2)PCT), inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT) and industrial applicability (Art. 33(4) PCT).

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of PCT for novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability (Art. 33(2)PCT), 33(3) PCT and 33(4)PCT).